AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Original) A substantially pure polypeptide, which comprises an amino acid sequence selected from

(a) the group consisting of Rv0288 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and its homologues Rv3019c (SEQ ID NO: 199) and Rv3017c (SEQ ID NO: 197);

(b) an immunogenic portion, e.g. a T-cell epitope, of any one of the sequences in (a); and /or

(c) an amino acid sequence analogue having at least 70% sequence identity to any one of the sequences in (a) or (b) and at the same time being immunogenic.

2. (Original) A substantial pure polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence analogue has at least 80% sequence identity to a sequence in (a) or (b).

3. (Original) A fusion polypeptide which comprises an amino acid sequence selected from

(a) the group consisting of Rv0288 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and its homologues Rv3019c (SEQ ID NO: 199) and Rv3017c (SEQ ID NO: 197);

(b) an immunogenic portion, e.g. a T-cell epitope, of any one of the sequences in (a); and /or

(c) an amino acid sequence analogue having at least 70% sequence identity to any one of the sequences in (a) or (b) and at the same time being immunogenic;

and at least one fusion partner.

4. (Original) A fusion polypeptide according to claim 3, wherein the fusion partner comprises a polypeptide fragment selected from

(a) a polypeptide fragment derived from a virulent mycobacterium, such as ESAT-6, MPB64, MPT64, TB10.4, CFP10, RD1-ORF5, RD1-ORF2, Rv1036, Ag85A, Ag85B, Ag85C, 19kDa lipoprotein, MPT32, MPB59 and alpha-crystallin;

(b) a polypeptide according to claim 1 and/or

(c) at least one immunogenic portion, e.g. a T-cell epitope, of any of the polypeptides in (a) or (b).

5. (Original) A polypeptide which comprises an amino acid sequence selected from

(a) the group consisting of Rv0288 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and its homologues Rv3019c (SEQ ID NO: 199) and Rv3017c (SEQ ID NO: 197);

(b) an immunogenic portion, e.g. a T-cell epitope, of any one of the sequences in (a); and /or

(c) an amino acid sequence analogue having at least 70% sequence iden-tity to any one of the sequences in (a) or (b) and at the same time being immunogenic;

which is lipidated so as to allow a self-adjuvating effect of the polypeptide.

6. (Original) A substantially pure polypeptide according to any of the claims 1-5 for use as a vaccine, as a pharmaceutical or as a diagnostic reagent.

7-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original) An immunogenic composition comprising a polypeptide according to any of the preceding claims.

10. (Original) An immunogenic composition according to claim 9, which is in the form of a vaccine.

11. (Original) An immunogenic composition according to claim 9, which is in the form of a skin test reagent.

12.-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an immunologically responsive amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of Rv0288 (SEQ ID NO: 2), Rv3019c (SEQ ID NO: 199), Rv3017c (SEQ ID NO: 197) and an immunogenic portion of any of these polypeptides;

(b) an amino acid sequence which has a sequence identity of at least 70% to any one of said polypeptides in (a) and is immunogenic;

(c) a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide or amino acid sequence according to (a) or (b) and at least one fusion partner;

(d) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide or amino acid sequence according to (a), (b) or (c);

(e) a nucleic acid sequence which is complementary to a sequence according to (d);

(f) a nucleic acid sequence which has a length of at least 10 nucleotides and which hybridizes under stringent conditions with a nucleic acid sequence according to (d) or (e); and

(g) a non-pathogenic micro-organism which has incorporated (e.g. placed on a plasmid or in the genome) therein a nucleic acid sequence according to (d), (e) or (f) in a manner to permit expression of a polypeptide encoded thereby.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Original) Vaccine according to claim 15 or 18, immunogenic composition according to claim 10 or pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, characterized in that said vaccine/immunogenic composion/pharmaceutical composition can be used prophylactically in a subject not infected with a virulent mycobacterium; or therapeutically in a subject already infected with a virulent mycobacterium.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an immunologically responsive amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of Rv0288 (SEQ ID NO: 2), Rv3019c (SEQ ID NO: 199), Rv3017c (SEQ ID NO: 197) and an immunogenic portion of any of these polypeptides;

(b) an amino acid sequence which has a sequence identity of at least 70% to any one of said polypeptides in (a) and is immunogenic; and

(c) a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide or amino acid sequence according to (a) or (b) and at least one fusion partner.

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, characterized in that said pharmaceutical composition can be used prophylactically in a subject not infected with a virulent mycobacterium; or therapeutically in a subject already infected with a virulent mycobacterium.

33. (Cancelled).